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Executive Report

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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National Intelligence Council

DDI 1703-82
1 March 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Chairman, National Intelligence Council [REDACTED]

FROM: [REDACTED]
National Intelligence Officer for NESA

SUBJECT: Meeting on Defense Policy for the Middle East and
Southwest Asia

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1. On 26 February, A/NIO/NESA [REDACTED] and I represented the Intelligence Community at an interagency meeting on the above topic. This meeting, chaired by RADM Sagerholm of DOD/ISA, had two main purposes:

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- To review a draft discussion paper - prepared by Bing West, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs - outlining US defense goals in the region; and
- To discuss the NSC staff's plans for updating [REDACTED] the basic strategy document for the Persian Gulf.

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2. Despite months of departmental, interagency, and public discussion of the subject, the participants in the meeting still disagreed -- at times, heatedly -- on several points. BG Granger of JCS/J-5, Bob Blackwill of State/PM, and Geoffrey Kemp of the NSC staff differed with the paper's implication that the US would necessarily have to wage a global war to counter a Soviet thrust against the Persian Gulf.

3. The paper is not specific about the range of Soviet and indigenous threats in the region to which we would feel obliged to respond. We noted this lack, and pointed out that intelligence indicators of these various deleterious events are significantly different. The paper also referred to a "redirection of our defense policy" in the area. We pointed out that,

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relevant to the NSC's overall policy review of which the defense paper is a significant portion, it is impractical to think of a defense policy redirection independent of its political and foreign policy implications.

4. The review [REDACTED] will provide the framework for interagency agreement on these issues. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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- The size of military force the US needs to commit to defense of the region and our ability to sustain operations there;
- The role of regional states, including Pakistan and Turkey; desirable levels of security assistance for these states;
- The role of our Western allies;
- The benefits and risks to the US of widening conflict to other theaters and the methods and forces for doing so; and
- The level of peacetime military presence that the US should seek in the Middle East.

5. In general, the Intelligence Community has laid the groundwork for our part of the NSSD in such papers as CIA's [REDACTED]
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